

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2005/11/23 : CIA-RDP80M01133A000500110001-1

[REDACTED]

Copy 4 of 4  
29 September 1975

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Classification of Imagery or Imagery-Derived Data  
in the Field

1. This memorandum is a status report on Action Item 4(c) of my memorandum of 23 September 1975.

2. A meeting was held at 1700 hours on Friday, 26 September 1975, at OJCS regarding the status of any DoD actions or proposed actions to resolve the decompartmentation of overhead imagery products. OJCS has tasked DIA to prepare a paper recommending procedures for the classification of overhead imagery products no higher than SECRET/NOFORN. The DIA Action Officer is Commander [REDACTED] USN, who reported the paper is "about to go Buff," the first submission for coordination.

3. Coordination is expected to receive strong support from all services except Army. In the past six months, Army has been objecting to the decompartmentation of overhead imagery. The exact reason for this objection could not be explained by anyone present at the meeting; therefore, I volunteered to talk with Colonel Joe Wilson, USA, Head, Tactical/Strategic Division of Intelligence Operations, ACS(I). [REDACTED] (DIA/DC-5C) stated that he was scheduled to see Colonel Wilson during the week of 29 September 1975.

4. I raised the point that the classification of SECRET/NOFORN would not help the European commanders in their operations with NATO. It is the opinion of OJCS that decompartmentation must be approached slowly and a step at a time. Dr. Schlesinger has stated that the DoD will attempt to decompartment overhead imagery products for U.S. forces first. This procedure will permit solutions to any difficulties before attempting the more complicated problems of NATO distribution.

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5. General Haigh has been notified of Dr. Schlesinger's decision. EUCOM and the U.S. component commands apparently have not been informed since they were very strong in their conversations during the recent visit.

6. I assured the DoD representatives that the ICS would assist in any way possible, and that if our assistance was desired they should notify me. I requested to be informed of the progress so that if assistance was requested, time would not be lost. It was agreed.

7. Progress is being made in this area. At this particular time, however, there appears to be a disconnect in the Army's approach to decompartmentation. One element, Army COMIREX member, is hampering moves to lower the classification of overhead imagery products, while Major General Aaron, in the presentation on the findings of Special Project [redacted] stressed: "The observations imply that at the tactical level there is a reluctance to use intelligence which is classified higher than CONFIDENTIAL. Particular attention was given to the fact that a SECRET classification on an imagery interpretation report only served to highlight the sensitivity of the source involved, especially since the decompartmented reports represented the only SECRET PHOTINT available to the players." If and when the appropriate situation arises, I will discuss the problem with Colonel Joe Wilson.

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